

18-11

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/921,263

Examiner

Russell Kallis

Applicant(s)

GARCON ET AL.

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/8/2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5 and 7-18 (renumbered 1-17).
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 19 February 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>2/19/04</u> |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Liza Hohenschutz on 2/13/2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6 has been cancelled.

In the Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) Method for transforming plant cells by introducing a heterologous gene into said plant cells with a gene for tolerance to HPPD inhibitors as a selection marker, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) preparing and culturing competent plant cells capable of receiving the heterologous gene and selection marker in a suitable medium, wherein said competent plant cells are embryogenic calluses or embryogenic tissues,

(b) bleaching the competent plant cells by introducing a suitable amount of HPPD inhibitor into the suitable medium of the competent plant cells,

(c) transforming the competent cells with the heterologous gene and the selection marker,

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(d) growing and selecting the transformed cells comprising the heterologous gene and the selection marker in a suitable medium wherein transformed cells appear green indicating the presence in the transformed cells of the heterologous gene and selection marker,

wherein said gene for tolerance to HPPD inhibitors comprises, in the direction of transcription, a regulatory promoter sequence which is functional in plant cells and plants, functionally linked to a DNA sequence encoding an HPPD, functionally linked to a regulatory terminator sequence which is functional in plant cells and plants.

Claim 7, line 1, "Claim 6" is changed to --Claim 1--.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's arguments and amendment to the claims presented in the paper filed 9/02/2003 indicating that the plant cells bleached prior to transformation turn green upon selection, which indicate the presence of the gene for tolerance to HPPD inhibitor, and in further view of Applicant's agreed upon Examiner's amendment limiting the competent plant cells to embryogenic calluses and embryogenic tissues, have placed the claims in a condition for allowance by overcoming the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph enablement issues addressed by the Examiner in the prosecution history.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell Kallis whose telephone number is (571) 272-0798. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson can be reached on (571) 272-0804. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Russell Kallis Ph.D.
February 19, 2004

DAVID T. FOX
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 180

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David T. Fox", written in black ink.